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AGRARIAN REVOLTS IN COMMUNIST CHINA REPORTED

Nan-ching, 22 July 1949 -- According to reliable sources, peasants in the Northeast are leaving their work, destroying machinery, and engaging in guerrilla activities. Responsible Chinese state that farmers are destroying bridges and rail lines and damaging industries. The exact magnitude of this movement is not clear, but high CCP officials speak of it as "very serious" and attribute it to bandits and KMT agents. CCP patrols are reported to be undergoing attack. The CCP looks upon the Northeast as an important factor in the modernization of all of China and heretofore the farmers have been its most faithful supporters in the area.

According to the CCP New China News Agency, the CCP have quelled, in Kiangsu and Anhwei, scattered peasant resistance led by KMT agents, landlords, and bandits. Most of the opposition is motivated by heavy taxation and is not of a political nature. One farmers' group in North Kiangsu has the slogan "Oppose the Communists and destroy the KMT." The peasant movement in North Anhwei is also of this nature. In resist- ing tax collection, poorly armed peasants attacked CCP troops and killed one officer. In these areas the powerful CCP can only demonstrate a peaceful attitude toward the peasants. The CCP is now experiencing what the KMT forces experienced before them.

Competent observers believe that in the future the peasants will develop a formidable resistance to the CCP. The peasants at present have to support the CCP's military program and in the future will have to bear the brunt of the CCP's ambitious industrial plans.

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